



Section 1: Project Proposal Information

1. **Responsible Official:** Martina Barnes, Manchester District Ranger
2. **Project Name:** Macintyre Permanent Opening Reclamation
3. **Project Location:** Town of Sunderland, Bennington County, Vermont
4. **Project Contact:** Scott Wixsom, 802-362-2307 x7219, swixsom@fs.fed.us
5. **Purpose and Need** (Why here? Why now? Why is the outcome desired?):

The goal of this project is to provide beneficial wildlife habitat by restoring several permanent openings to their original footprint. There are two permanent openings in close proximity to each other, Compartment 91 Stand 104 (10.2 acres), and C91S105 (11.1 acres)—located south of Kelley Stand and west of FR85. Each of these stands, which were created in 1996 as part of the Macintyre Timber Sale, have been maintained periodically with prescribed fire, chainsaws, and masticated with heavy equipment (i.e., brontosaurus®). Over time, the perimeters of the openings have reforested and encroached into the center of the openings, leaving less than 1–2 acres of early successional habitat in each opening. The reforested portion has also grown to the extent where it is no longer feasible to effectively treat through the traditional maintenance methods mentioned previously (i.e., fire, chainsaws, and mastication).

We propose to reclaim these openings by removing the mature, merchantable timber, which will restore the openings to their original footprint and allow for planned maintenance, in this case prescribed fire, to effectively treat and maintain the entire openings.

6. **Project Description** (What will we be doing? How will we do it? Where is the project located?):

Our goal is to restore the C91S104 and C91S105 permanent openings to their original footprint. The reforested portions of the openings would be included in the harvest treatments of future timber sales which may occur in close proximity to stands 104 and 105. No new roads would be needed, and previously established log landings would be used. Season of harvest would be determined in coordination with forest soil staff. The project is located in the town of Sunderland, south of Kelly Stand Road and west of Forest Road 85 .

7. **Forest Plan Management Area:**

Diverse Backcountry and a small portion of Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers.

8. **Forest Plan Compliance** (How does this project comply with the Land & Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) direction?):

2.2.2 Goals and Objectives



Goal 2: Maintain and restore quality, amount, and distribution of habitats to produce viable and sustainable populations of native and desirable non-native plants and animals.

Forest-wide Habitat Composition and Structure Objectives:

Long-Term Composition Objectives for 1-5% of all GMNF lands in permanent upland openings.

Maintain, and where desirable increase, the acres of upland open habitats at slightly higher than ecological tendencies to support species that prefer these habitats.

Goal 10: Provide other resource benefits through coordinated timber harvesting.

Objective: Increase the coordination among wildlife and fish biologists, recreation planners, fire planners, silviculturists, and other specialists in order to utilize vegetation management to accomplish objectives of other program areas. The emphasis is using vegetation management as a tool to accomplish the habitat or setting desired by program areas.

9. Exclusion Category:

36 CFR 220.6(e): *(6) Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction.*

10. Expected Implementation Date: Implementation is expected to occur between 2021 and 2022.

